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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060065

51
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC: (VAN PELT, JAMES)
SUBJECT: W/W JAMES VAN PELT

1. ATTORNEY FOR WASHINGTON BASED COMPANY CONTINENTAL HOMES INC. MARCUS SISK IS INQUIRING RE WELFARE COMPANY PRESIDENT US CITIZEN JAMES VAN PELT. REPORTEDLY VAN PELT RECENTLY ENTERED ETHIOPIA TO HELP WORK OUT BUSINESS DISPUTE ARISING OVER CERTAIN PAYMENTS DUE BY CONTINENTAL HOMES ETHIOPIA LTD TO LOCAL CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR HAS NOW INSTITUTED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WHICH INCLUDE COURT ORDER PREVENTING VAN PELT'S DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY.

2. SISK INSISTS CONTINENTAL HOMES ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS CONTINENTAL HOMES INC WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, TO ENGAGE IN APPROPRIATE LITIGATION BEFORE COMPETENT COURT, AND TO ABIDE BY NEGOTIATED OR COURT IMPOSED DECISION. HOWEVER, US COMPANY QUESTIONS REASON AND/OR LEGAL BASIS FOR MAKING VAN PELT A "HOSTAGE" FOR SETTLEMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO SISK, VAN PELT HAS NO REPEAT NO DIRECT PERSONAL OR LEGAL INVOLVEMENT IN DISPUTE AND SHOULD NOT BE LEGALLY INVOLVED. CONTINENTAL HOMES ETHIOPIA LTD, IS
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PAGE 02 STATE 060065

AN ETHIOPIAN REGISTERED COMPANY IN WHICH US COMPANY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CONTINENTAL HOMES INC. PRESUMABLY HAS MAJORITY STOCK INTEREST. WHILE VAN PELT IS PRESIDENT OF US COMPANY HE HAS NO REPEAT NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ETHIOPIAN COMPANY.

BELIEVE VAN PELT HAS DISCUSSED HIS SITUATION WITH EMBASSY.

4. PLEASE ADVISE AS CONSULAR PROTECTION PROBLEM. RUSH

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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